

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-04 COME-00 INT-05 AID-05 IO-10 /084 W

----- 033798

R 080804Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 962

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAID, PO

SUBJ: ANOTHER PLEA FOR US HELP FOR PORTUGAL

1. DURING A DISCUSSION OF PRESENT SITUATION IN MINING SECTOR AND PROSPECTS FOR US EXPORTS OF EQUIPMENT, ENG. FERNANDO SOARES CARNEIRO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MINING IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR US ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE." HE SAID THE US MUST COME "IN FORCE" RIGHT AWAY, BOTH THROUGH OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THROUGH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, IN ORDER TO HELP GET ECONOMY MOVING AND STAVE OFF A PCP VICTORY AT POLLS IN MARCH. CARNEIRO BELIEVES THAT AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF PEOPLE NOW SUPPORT WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND WOULD WELCOME MASSIVE US HELP. HOWEVER, HE FEARS THAT A COMBINATION OF A CONTINUALLY WEAKENING ECONOMY AND "A BOMBARDMENT OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA" COULD TURN TIDE. CARNEIRO STATED THAT PCP STRATEGY IS TO ALLOW THE ECONOMY TO DETERIORATE SERIOUSLY ENOUGH SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD TURN TO IT AS A LAST ALTERNATIVE. HE ALSO STATED THAT US APPEARS TO BE DOING NOTHING WHILE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE VERY ACTIVE IN PROMISING HELP AND IN AIDING THE LEFT.

2. CARNEIRO DID NOT PROPOSE ANY CONCRETE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.

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HE DID NOTE THAT GOP HAS A WHOLE SERIES OF PROJECTS ON DRAWING

BOARD IN WHICH PRIVATE US FIRMS COULD PARTICIPATE.

3. COMMENT: CARNEIRO REPORTEDLY WAS JAILED AT ONE TIME DURING PREVIOUS REGIME ALTHOUGH HE CAME BACK INTO FAVOR AND SERVED AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MINING BEFORE APRIL 25. HE REPORTEDLY IS WELL-CONNECTED IN MINISTRY. HIS THOUGHTS ARE FAIRLY TYPICAL OF NON-COMMUNIST OPINION HERE.

SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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